



SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 296

20 JAN 23 P5:33

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RECEIVED BY

RESOLUTION
URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE EFFICIENT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANS AND MEASURES ON THE REPATRIATION
OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN LIGHT OF THE MIDDLE EAST
TENSIONS, THEREBY SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC WELFARE AND INTEREST

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "*the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people*";

WHEREAS, the Middle East is the Philippines' largest destination for land-based workers with deployment at more than 1 million annually, according to latest government data. The region also is the second-largest source of cash remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) stated that there are 500,000 OFWs in Saudi Arabia, 300,000 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and 100,000 in Kuwait and Qatar, respectively;

WHEREAS, according to Qatar Labor Attaché David Des Dicang, there are a total of 1,640 OFWs, documented and undocumented, in Iraq alone;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the Philippine military to prepare equipment to help evacuate Filipinos in the Middle East. Duterte called for an emergency meeting with defense officials on 05 January 2020 to discuss how the United States and Iran tensions could impact the safety of OFWs in the Middle East;

WHEREAS, as of January 2020, a total of thirteen (13) OFWs have been repatriated by the Philippine government from Iraq via Doha, Qatar.;

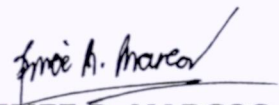
WHEREAS, as of the moment, tensions remain high following the United States (US) assassination of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani and Iran's retaliatory missile attacks on two US military bases in Iraq;

WHEREAS, political analyst and academic Ramon Casiple said the situation should be monitored closely, not only in Iran and Lebanon but all possibly affected areas in the region, including Libya. Casiple said, "*What is required is an orderly evacuation plan that is disseminated to all [OFWs] for implementation, based on the developing situation and alert levels*";

WHEREAS, given the escalating tensions and distressed situation in the Middle East, particularly the United States-Iran crisis, there is a need to provide immediate assistance to OFWs and their dependents in the said area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, urging the Executive Department to ensure efficient implementation of the plans and measures on the repatriation of Overseas Filipino Workers in light of the Middle East tensions, thereby safeguarding public welfare and interest.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS